

Executive Registry

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT: Proposal for Clandestine Overflights

1. As an earlier memorandum on this subject dated 1 May 1969 has been the occasion for rather substantial misunderstanding. I have asked for its recall. The subject of that memorandum was what may or may not be the problem of ensuring adequate substantive support for the DCI in connection with his appearances at meetings of the 303 Committee which involve consideration of reconnaissance proposals.

2. These proposals fall into two categories. One category involves operations for which the Agency is responsible. The second category involves operations undertaken by the military services or other agencies of the Government which are not under CIA control.

3. Obviously the responsibility of the DCI differs somewhat as between these two categories of activity. His personal concern and responsibility for an operation conducted by CIA is obviously greater than it is for operations conducted by another service or agency. This distinction is particularly strong where the purpose of an operation in the second category is to collect information of essentially tactical or departmental concern to a service or command, as distinguished from "national" intelligence.

4. In either case, however, the question is whether the risk or expense of a given operation is justified by the value of the information to be acquired.

5. I am informed that under existing procedures the DCI is provided as a matter of routine with briefs that permit him to speak authoritatively about the informational needs to be served by any

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reconnaissance mission that comes before the 303 Committee. The only purpose of this memorandum is to make sure that both the DDI and the DDS&T are satisfied with these procedures.

/s/ John A. Bross

JOHN A. BROSS
D/DCI/NIPE

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